

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 BANGKO 24448 310824Z

10
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SNM-02 TRSE-00 /024 W
----- 049650

R 310525Z AUG 76
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2754
INFO DEA HQ WASHDC
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BANGKOK 24448

EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: SNAR TH
SUBJECT: FURTHER DETAILS OF MAJOR NARCOTICS SEIZURE IN
BANGKOK

REF: BANGKOK 24390

SUMMARY: SINCE SUBMISSION OF REFTEL FURTHER DETAILS HAVE
BECOME AVAILABLE REGARDING SEIZURE OF MAJOR QUANTITY OF NO. 3
HEROIN AT BANGKOK AIRPORT AUGUST 30. HEROIN HAS BEEN WEIGHED
AND FOUND TO AMOUNT TO 138.2 KILOGRAMS. HEROIN WAS PACKED IN
PLASTIC BAGS AND CONTAINED IN TWO DRUMS MARKED AVIATION
GREASE AND CONSIGNED TO NETHERLANDS (DETAILS IN DEA REPORTING).
DRUMS WERE CONDUCTED TO AIRPORT BY ALBERT JOHAN HANS CORNELIS
(37) OF SNEEK, NETHERLANDS. CORNELIS WAS DRESSED IN AIRLINE
PILOT'S UNIFORM, PRESUMABLY TO ENSURE THAT CONSIGNMENT WOULD
PASS THROUGH THAI CUSTOMS WITHOUT QUESTION. END SUMMARY.

1. THAIL CUSTOMS OFFICIALS BECAME SUSPICIOUS OS TRANSACTION
AS THEY NOTED THAT AVIATION GREASE IS NORMALLY IMPORTED
INTO THAILAND, RATHER THAN EXPORTED. THEY EXAMINED CONTENTS
OF DRUMS MORE CAREFULLY AND DISCOVERED HEROIN.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 BANGKO 24448 310824Z

2. CORNELIS HAD MEANWHILE LEFT AIRPORT BUT WAS LATER ARRESTED

IN HIS ROOM AT INDRA HOTEL. SEVERAL HOURS LATER AN ALLEGED ACCOMPLICE, MR A MEYER (25), ALSO OF THE NETHERLANDS, WAS ARRESTED. FOUR OTHER PERSONS ARE BEING SOUGHT BY THAIL POLICE IN CONNECTION WITH THE TRANSACTION. CORNELIS INITIALLY STATED HE WAS AN AMERICAN, BUT IT DEVELOPED THAT BOTH HE AND MEYER WERE DUTCH NATIONALS. CORNELIS ALLEGED THAT HE WAS WORKING AS A DC-6 PILOT FOR WEST COAST AVIATION LTD. OF THE NETHERLANDS AND THAT HE HAD COME TO BANGKOK FROM SEATTLE ON AUGUST 27. HOWEVER, THAI POLICE STATE THAT A CHECK HAS SHOWN THAT CORNELIS DID NOT WORK FOR WESTCOAST AVIATION AS HE STATED.

3. MAJOR GEN PHAO SARASIN, SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE CENTRAL NARCOTICS BUREAU, TOLD PRESS AUGUST 30 THAT CORNELIS, MEYER, AND THEIR ACCOMPLICES WERE PART OF AN INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING RING NOW IN BANGKOK TO SUPERVISE SHIPMENT OF THE HEROIN. HE SAID THE RING HAD AN EXTENSIVE NETWORK COVERING AMSTERDAM, SINGAPORE, BELGIUM, AND HONG KONG.

4. COMMENT: EPISODE IS OF CONSIDERABLE INTEREST, NOT ONLY BECAUSE OF THE LARGE QUANTITY OF HEROIN INVOLVED, BUT ALSO FOR THE IMAGINATION AND SOPHISTICATION THAT TRAFFICKING RING DISPLAYED. AS AT OTHER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORTS, PILOTS AND AIRCREW IN UNIFORM PASS THROUGH CUSTOMS WITH LITTLE OR NO QUESTION, ODOR OF HEROIN WAS MASKED BY AVIATION GREASE, AND BOTH CORNELIS AND MEYER WERE DRESSED PRESENTABLY. CORNELIS, IN PARTICULAR, LOOKS LIKE AIRLINE PILOT WITH SHORT BACK AND SIDES HAIRCUT AND SUNGLASSES OF TYPE AIRCREW OFTEN WEAR.
BURKE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HEROIN, DRUG SEIZURES, AIRPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BANGKO24448
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760329-1343
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976085/aaaaadli.tel
Line Count: 91
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 BANGKOK 24390
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 APR 2004 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <10 AUG 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FURTHER DETAILS OF MAJOR NARCOTICS SEIZURE IN BANGKOK
TAGS: SNAR, TH
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006